

## CONTRIBUTORS

**Nadia Faragaab** is a Somali-Australian visual artist who is completing her graduate studies in Linguistics at the University of Melbourne. She creates discussions around Somali identity globally and explores the role of language in forming identity. Faragaab initiated the development of the Somali English Dictionary application (app).

**Bashir Goth** is an accomplished poet, a writer on political and cultural issues, and an advocate of community development.

Among its notable features, his work chastises the dehumanizing social, cultural, political, and economic conditions of Africa in general and Somalia in particular. A promoter of women's causes and the author of romantic lyrics as well, Goth wrote his first play when he was in the seventh grade. The play was performed at the intermediate and high schools, and the military camp in the town of Sheikh, where he was a boarding school student at the time. His first widely known poem is "*Jabhad iyo Dagaalkii*," which he contributed to the *Deeleey* chain in 1979. Ten years later, Goth himself started the *Xaamiim* chain in which many poets participated and which became widely popular in Somalia, Djibouti, and among Somalis in the diaspora. In 1997, Goth wrote "*Baabulow libaax*," a dramatic satire about the presidential elections in the then breakaway Somaliland. The lengthy poem is reminiscent of George Orwell's *Animal Farm* as the characters take the form of animals that act and talk like the human types they represent.

Several of Goth's English articles have been translated into French, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, and Hebrew.

**Mohamed Omar Hashi** is a postgraduate student at the University of Leicester, completing an M.A. in International Security Studies. His research interest revolves around intelligence and security reforms in fragile and post-conflict states. Hashi was a member of the Transitional Federal Parliament of Somalia from 2009 to 2012.

**Abdirahaman Adan Mohamoud** is a social worker with a Master's degree in Development Studies from Kampala University. He received his Bachelor's degree in Business and Public Administration from Amoud University. For the past eight years, he has been working with the United Nations in different capacities. At present, he is a Project Manager in the United Nations Human Settlements Program. His

main areas of research interest are local governance, municipal finance, decentralized service delivery, and illegal immigration. His latest contributions include a paper examining the challenges and opportunities of local governments. In August 2014, his book, *Laba Kala Leexday*, was launched at the Hargeisa International Book Fair.

**Faduma Abukar Mursal** is a Ph.D. candidate at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology in Halle, Germany. Her main research interests consist of questions regarding state and statehood, nationalism, and forced migration, as well as general issues of representation and identity.

**Ruth M. Smith** recently completed her doctorate at Ohio University in Arts Administration, Education and Policy. She has worked as a community art educator with the Somali Women and Children's Alliance and the Somali Cultural and Research Institute in Columbus, Ohio. She continues writing collaboratively and organizing exhibits with the women participating in "Dumarka Soomaaliyeed Voices Unveiled" from Indiana, where she currently resides and works as an independent scholar and artist.

**Nick Thieberger** is a linguist who works with South Efate, a language of central Vanuatu. In 2003, he helped establish PARADISEC ([paradisec.org.au](http://paradisec.org.au)), a digital archive, of which he is now the Director. He is a co-founder of Resource Network for Linguistic Diversity (RNLD). Interested in developments in e-humanities methods and their potential to improve research practice, he is now developing methods for the creation of reusable data sets from fieldwork on previously unrecorded languages—including building dictionaries with multimedia components. He is the editor of the journal *Language Documentation and Conservation*. He taught in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and is currently an Australian Research Council Future Fellow at the University of Melbourne.